निदेशकों का कार्यकाल भी पूरा हो गया है और उनके उत्तराधिकारी की नियुक्ति होने तक वे अपने पदों पर बने हुए हैं । सरकार ने अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशकों तथा गैर-सरकारी निदेशकों के रिक्त पदों को भरने के लिए पहले ही आवश्यक कार्यवाई प्रारम्भ कर दी है ।

Smuggling of Anns Through Gujarat Sea

3510. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in Dainik Jagran of 12th January, 1993 regarding large scale/heavy smuggling of Deadly arms/weapons to India through Gujarat sea way by Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether any action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to stop the smuggling of arms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Available reports do not indicate such landings of firearms. Government have alerted the field formations and close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of such smuggling.

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण संगठनों से परामर्श

3511. श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार आम उपभोक्ता की सभी वस्तुओं की नियंत्रित कीमतों पर कोई निर्णय लेने से पूर्व नीतिगत मामलों पर उपभोक्ता संरक्षण संगठन और सम्बन्धित विशेषज्ञों से परामर्श करती है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार को उपभोक्ता संरक्षण संगठनों से ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है, यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) और (ख) आम उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के नियंत्रित मूल्य सम्बन्धित मंत्रालयों/ उद्योगों द्वारा निर्धारित किए जाते हैं और उपभोक्ता संरक्षण संगठनों के साथ परामर्श करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है ।

(ग) इस मंत्रालय को, इस प्रकार के परामर्श के लिए किसी भी उपभोक्ता संरक्षण संगठन से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है ।

Prevention of Smuggling Through West Coast

3512. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special steps have been taken to prevent smuggling of arms and other contraband goods through Kutch frontier and the East Coast belt;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of persons apprehended and smuggled goods seized from them during 1990, 1991 and 1992 from these coastal frontiers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) ; (a) and (b) The Customs formations are alert against the smuggling of contraband includ-ding arms. The anti-smuggling formations have been equipped with vehicles, vessels, firearms, etc. A telecommunication network has also been provided where considered necessary. Close coordination is being maintained among the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention *at* smuggling.

(c) The value of contraband seized during the last 3 years on the East Coast and Gujarat Coast are given below :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Gujarat Coast	East Coast
1990	2.00	162.48
1991	6.68	112.63
1992*	10.01*	129.33*

*(Figures are provisional)

Separate figures for Kutch Coast alone are not maintained.

The number of persons arrested throughout the country during the last 3 years of 1990, 1991 and 1992 for being involved in smuggling activities are given below ;—

Year	*No. of persons arrested*
1990	3284
1991	2358
1992	1805 (Prov.)

Separate figures for the East Coast and Kutch are not maintained.

I. T. Defaulters

3513. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the first ten defaulters of Income Tax; and

(b) what is the action taken against each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and Ob) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Request for Exemption from Payment of Interest

3514. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested to exempt A.P. State Housing Corporation Ltd. and A.P. Urban Development and Housing Corporation Ltd. engaged in weaker sections' housing from the payment of interest tax on interest chargeable; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter pertaining to exemption of interest on loans to economically weaker sections from interest tax was examined in general, as part of budget exercise. It was decided that there was no need for exempting housing finance corporations from interest tax. The housing corporations can subsidise the weaker sections by charging higher interest from other groups and interest tax exemption is not the appropriate measure for helping the weaker section.

Central Assistance to Bihar

3515. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the fiscal crisis in the State of Bihar is seriously hampering the developmental plans of the State; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to rescue the State from the financial crisis indicating (i) the States share of central assistance released as against the outstanding dues; and (ii) the amount of coal cess released as against the dues and the reasons for not releasing the State's dues in full ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) After discussion on 22-1-1992 between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Bihar, Annual Plan of Bihar for 1992-93 was approved at Rs. 2202.73 crores to be financed with State's own resources of Rs. 574.25 crores and Central support of Rs. 1628.48 crores. On the request of the State Government, the Annual Plan has been recently revised downwards from Rs. 2202.73 crores to Rs. 1100 crores as there has been deterioration in State's own resources during tht year.